

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00665 080731Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 EUR-12 /056 W

-----062310 090322Z /64

R 071625Z JUL 78

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6504

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 665

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, BH, GT,UK

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN NAVY GOES ASHORE

1. WHILE PRECISE DETAILS ARE SCARCE, FOLLOWING SEEMS BE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS INVOLVING GUATEMALAN 75' PATROL BOAT, AT LEAST IN EYES OF BELIZEANS WHO ARE NOTHING IF NOT FIRST CLASS SEAMEN. ON TUESDAY, 4 JULY, GUATEMALAN PATROL BOAT WAS OPERATING (ACCORDING TO ASSISTANT HARBOR MASTER HERE) INSIDE BELIZEAN WATERS, NEAR WRECK OF VESSEL SARBO ON LIGHTHOUSE CAYE. HARBOR MASTER SAYS HIS SALVAGE TEAM ON SARBO HAD IMPRESSION BOAT SURVEYED SCENE, DECIDED WHERE THEY WANTED TO GO ASHORE, SWUNG AROUND, BACKED OFF, RANG UP ALL FULL AHEAD AND WENT FULL SPEED UP ON THE CORAL. HE OPINES IT WOULD BE EASIER PULL PATROL BOAT FORWARD INTO LAGOON RATHER THAN PULL HER STERN INTO DEEP WATER. HE ALSO FEELS BOAT IS NEAR TOTAL LOSS.

2. NEXT DAY, TWO MORE GUATEMALAN PATROL BOATS APPEARED TO SURVEY SCENE, PRESUMABLY WITH BELIZEAN APPROVAL SINCE GOV HAS BEEN IN TOUCH, THROUGH GUATEMALAN CONSUL GENERAL WITH GUATEMALAN AUTHORITIES. AT SAME TIME, GUATEMALAN C-47 WAS GIVEN OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS AND SURVEYED DISASTER FROM AIR. SOME OF CREW HAVE BEEN TAKEN OFF; SOME WE UNDERSTAND, REMAIN ON BOARD.

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3. WHILE INCIDENT HAS ITS LIGHTER MOMENTS, THERE ARE OBVIOUS SERIOUS ASPECTS. OUR SOURCE STATES VIOLATIONS OF BELIZEAN WATERS BY GUATEMALANS ARE COMMON BUT NOT REPORTED. THIS MUST IRRITATE BELIZEANS AND WORRY BRITISH, ALTHOUGH BRUAN BERRY IN GOVERNOR'S OFFICE SAID IF THINGS ARE ALLOWED TO MOVE AS THEY SHOULD, THROUGH CHANNELS THERE SHOULD BE NO

PROBLEM. HE IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT PRESS MAY BLOW
UP INCIDENT OUT OF PROPORTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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